

## THE WIZARD BANQUETED.

Washington's Representative Citizens Greet the Tuskegeean at the Festive Board—He points the Pathway to Progress and Modestly tells the Story of his Life and Work—Many Visitors From the States join in Good Cheer—Eloquent and Witty Speeches by the Guests—A feast of Reason and a Flow of Soul.

The recent visit of Dr. Washington to this city was an ovation from the beginning to end. He came at the invitation of a few, but he was in reality the guest of all Washington, black and white, and they vied with each other who should do him the greatest honor. A grand banquet was tendered Thursday night of last week, at Oddfellows' Hall, by one hundred and sixty representative colored men of the nation's capital. The committee having immediate charge was composed of the following well known citizens: Hon. John C. Dancy, Judge Robt. H. Terrell, Gov. P. B. S. Pinchbadk, Dr. F. J. Shadd, Whitfield McKinlay, Major Chas. R. Douglass and Rev. O. J. W. Scott.

The greeting given Dr. Washington, the leader and tribune of his people, must have gladdened his heart. The banquet was the largest and most important function of the kind ever given here in honor of a colored man, and was intended by the promoters to attest the esteem, confidence, and loyalty of the colored people of the District of Columbia.

The hall was decorated with flags, palms, flowers, and bunting in abundance. Sylvester Thomas' orchestra rendered a most entertaining program during the evening.

## GUESTS FROM A DISTANCE.

After a reception of one-half hour the party retired to the banquet room at 7:30 o'clock. Seated at the guest's table with Dr. Washington were the following prominent men, who came to Washington in compliment to the guest of the evening: T. Thomas Fortune, editor of the New York Age, and president of the National Afro-American Council; J. Douglas Wetmore, member of the city council and attorney-at-law, Jacksonville, Fla.; Alderman J. B. Raymond, Altoona, Pa.; C. W. Anderson, supervisor of racing accounts, New York, N. Y.; Philip Waters assistant secretary of the State Supreme Court, Charleston, W. Va.; E. A. Johnson, Raleigh, N. C.; John E. Taylor, Wilmington, N. C.; Emmet J. Scott, Dr. Washington's private secretary; H. S. Cummings and Hiram Wattey, of Baltimore, while just 165 subscribers, representing the best brains and character, as well as all lines of business, educational and religious activity among the colored people of the District, occupied other tables.

Justice R. H. Terrell presided as toastmaster. His address in introducing Dr. Washington was a masterpiece of English and eloquence, and sounded the keynote of all of the responses. Justice Terrell said:

"A little more than a quarter of a century ago, our leaders in thought and action believed that the way to the solution of our problem was so clear and so definite that it was not within the scope of probability that any serious obstacles would again obstruct it. The exercise of effective political

rights by the Negro, at that time, made this belief not only reasonable, but seemed to lift the whole question of our future out of the realms of doubt and to take it out of the field of speculative uncertainty. We have moved forward to new issues and new duties. We are face to face with the greatest crisis of our history as a free people. Day by day, hour by hour, our burdens are increasing. The greater they become, the broader and deeper must be our responsibilities.

While no country in the world gives to its peasant class a better chance to obtain shelter, food and raiment than the United States gives to the Negro, yet this extraordinary opportunity is not all of life to us, any more than it is to the other racial elements in our population. Our country's central idea is liberty under the law. In this we would share. We would have what other men have in a democracy—political duties and an opportunity to perform those duties. Under our system of government every man is a public man; every man is entitled to every right, relative or absolute, guaranteed him as a citizen. The blessings of a well ordered civilization should be the exclusive property of no particular class of people in a country like ours.

"Every one here to-night appreciates the fact that grave dangers are upon us; that this is no time for fighting each other, but it is the time for closing up our ranks and presenting a united front to those who would embarrass us and impede our progress.

"It is well that we at the nation's capital, should do honor to the foremost man of our race. It is well that we should give this evidence of our faith and belief in him, in his work and in his unusual opportunity to aid his race in the terrible struggle it is making for justice, aye for the very right to live.

To please all men is a problem which no man, however great or good, has ever solved. Shakespeare, the prince of poets and the dean of literature, has said: 'Be thou as pure as ice, as chaste as snow, thou shall not escape, Calumny.'

"This splendid gathering of representative men is the best attestation of what the citizens of the District of Columbia think of Booker T. Washington, a leader of extraordinary powers; a man endowed by nature with a deep substratum of solid common sense and sound judgment; a man with intuitive perception of the things best for those to whose interests he has devoted all of his thoughts and all of his words; a man whom no ambition has affected and no personal interest tempted; a man whose very soul is consecrated to the highest and best development of his race.

"Such a man is our guest. I have the honor to present to this company of his friends and supporters, Dr. Booker T. Washington, the teacher as well as the leader of men."

The program was so deftly arranged that every class and school of thought was embodied. Every speech was a gem and the limit of five minutes was observed by nearly every speaker. It was, indeed, a feast of reason and a flow of soul. A list of the spell-binders is herewith submitted:

Prof. W. S. Montgomery, Supt. of the Colored Schools of the District, "Our Public Schools;" Prof. Kelly Miller,

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